

## **RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RUSHDEN TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020 VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

Present: Cllr Melanie Coleman, Town Mayor

Councillors:

David Coleman	Philip Humphrey	Tracey Smith
Paul Harley	Sarah Peacock	Adrian House
David Jenney	Richard Lewis	Gill Mercer
Andy Mercer	Colin Wright	Robin Underwood
Marian Hollomon	Steven North	
Barbara Jenney		

Town Clerk: Vivienne Prodger

#### **189/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **190/21 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Carol Childs, Ron Pinnock, Janet Pinnock, Kaye Rawlins and Cesare Marinaro

#### **191/21 MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

#### **192/21 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT**

*The calendar has not exactly been full, but we have managed a few events.*

*We visited 2 lovely couples to congratulate them on their Wedding Anniversaries.*

*Diamond for John and Betty Shutter and Golden for Angela and Colin West. It was really interesting talking to John about his football and Betty about the wool shop she owned , about the changing face of the Rushden High Street as they reminisced, I was amazed how much I too remembered.*

*Angela and Colin on the other hand only moved here a year ago because they thought Rushden a good place to retire. It was a pleasure to be shown their beautiful garden, Angela had recreated a Beach hut in her delightful garden.*

*On a more sombre note we attended the Memorial of the Bombing of Alfred Street School Sadly they were unable to host the large scale event they had planned but this was a very dignified and moving occasion.*

*October 6<sup>th</sup> saw another Zoom Mayor making as we saw Karl Webb become Mayor of Huntingdon. For those that have met him, you know, he is a very charismatic character.*

*On Sunday we attended St Crispin's Day Service at Northampton for the Lord Lieutenant, unfortunately it was only by You Tube and I was unable to wear a hat.*

*On that subject I have added to my collection of re-cycled head attire by purchasing 2 hats from the Salvation Army for the princely sum of £4.00. David even encouraged my purchases*

*Finally, with approval and support from our Town Clerk and Rushden British Legion I am hoping to organise a Poppy Pebble display at the War Memorial. We may not have our traditional Parade but hopefully we will mark the special day with our own Poppy Cascade.*

## **193/21 POLICING ISSUES**

### **JAG Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

#### **1. Update on Agreed Priorities**

Anti-Social Behaviour within Public Parks in Rushden, Higham Ferrers and Irthlingborough.

PC Paul Mitchinson reported that a number of Community Protection Warnings had been issued in Rushden to habitual street drinkers. Three of these warnings had been followed up with Community Protection Notices as the recipients had failed to respond to the original CPW's.

PC Mitchinson was pleased to report that several cannabis factories had been detected and closed down in Rushden since our last meeting.

It was also reported that working in partnership with the Irthlingborough PCSO had resulted in the arrest of two teenagers who were in possession of class A and class B drugs. A third teenager is to be questioned as a result of these arrests.

Vivienne Prodger reported that vandalism had occurred in Hall Park and this had resulted in four windows being broken in the bay window at the Hall. There is some CCTV footage and a press release is to be issued and placed on various media sites, highlighting this incident.

PC Mitchinson advised that the work of a proactive team had targeted drug dealers and users throughout Rushden had resulted in a number of arrests.

#### **2. To Consider New Priorities**

It was agreed that the priorities would remain as anti-social behaviour in the Parks and Open Spaces within Higham Ferrers, Rushden and Irthlingborough.

#### **3. Highways**

The bus stop outside the Co-Op in Higham Ferrers is currently having barriers installed to try and help reduce the amount of cars parking there. This action and the re-marking of the road should help to keep this as a designated bus stop only.

Irthlingborough Town Council reported issues with lorries ignoring the current weight limit and continuing to go through the High Street and College Street. Concerns were raised that these vehicles are going through the town at school pick up time and members are worried that a serious accident is waiting to happen.

#### 4. **Any other business**

Cllr Gardner reported that her walkabouts in Higham Ferrers with the PCSO continued to be proving beneficial.

Members felt that we needed to contact both the Police and Crime Commission and the Chief Constable to request that they attend our next JAG meeting to discuss each town's concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour. Members also thought it would be beneficial for each town to write individual letters expressing these concerns.

Rushden Town Clerk to contact both the Police and Crime Commission to establish their availability to attend our next meeting.

#### 5. **Time and date of next meeting**

To be agreed when the Chief Constable and PCC have come back with available dates.

#### 194/21 **LEADER'S ADDRESS**

*The Town Council continues to deliver their statutory duties amid the continuing Covid 19 restrictions. The goal posts move daily and meetings with the Town Clerks are held weekly with East Northants Council to help support our local community and businesses. We have our emergency grant of £500 still available for local groups.*

*The two new working parties for the High St and Business continue to meet and are in the process of identifying their aims and way forward. They will receive a presentation from Greg McDonald, Head of Economic and Commercial Development, at ENC, who will give us all food for thought at the next meetings. This will then move us forward in a more structured direction.*

*The staff continue to work from the Hall (though we are not open directly to the public, Telephone communication is still the first option) extra measures have been instigated within the building to support a safe working environment.*

*We were pleased to receive our 7th Green Flag Award. This is such a prestigious award and our congratulations go to all the Ground Maintenance staff at Turney's and our officers who work daily on keeping our parks up to such a high standard. In order to announce this award, the Hall was lit up in green lights by Lightening Lloyd.*

*However, on a sad note we have a group of youths who do not deserve to be allowed into our parks and open spaces. They have caused over £1,000 of damage to the Hall and play equipment and shown anti-social behavior towards other residents using the facilities. This **will not** be tolerated and evidence from CCTV and any other social media will be used to prosecute. The police are aware, and it*

*was discussed at a recent JAG meeting. If anyone witnesses any of these acts please call the police direct and capture any evidence on their mobiles. Though, we do not encourage any member of the public to become directly involved.*

*Cllr Lewis, the Clerk and I attended via Zoom the NCALC AGM at the beginning of October. A report will follow later in the agenda. However, it was well attended and good to see how everyone is coping. Though we did miss the bacon butties and coffee.*

*The Rushden East SUE seems to have moved a step closer with the possibility of a planning application coming forward. ENC are also out for consultation on the SUE so that it can be included in the new Local Plan 2. Consultation is also out for an alternative site for development as the Rushden Lake West site has opposition from Natural England. This site is worded as South East of the A6 and sits below our site where we have our application in for the new Rugby Club/Community facility. Comments can be made via ENC/consultation.*

*Whilst on the theme of Planning, our applications on Manor Park and the New Rugby Club/Community facility are back in with ENC for determination. Once again, they raised a couple more reports for us to complete. This we have done, and they are out for public consultation. We hope they will be received favorably by the public and statutory bodies as we have worked hard with our agents to provide a sustainable application and in the process provide a facility for the community for years to come. We are mindful that we are a growth town but identify the need for securing open space. This is a fantastic opportunity for this Town Council.*

*Plans for Remembrance Sunday have been discussed with the British Legion. Unfortunately, the parade will not take place, it will be a smaller service than normal but will still be as sincere I am sure. Nearer the date we will inform members of the process. It is planned to record the service and stream it out. We are however, encouraging people to meet on their door steps for the two-minute silence at 11am. Poppies are on sale outside the Extra Care shop and at the Rushden Lakes were the British Legion have their mobile or there is the option of buying from their website. I am sure as usual the people of Rushden will support this worthy cause.*

*Work is taking place on the next edition of Rushden Matters ready for its release mid November. There will be some new features as we work within these restricted times, but it will have a festive theme to it. We will try our best to keep the spirits of our community high on our agenda and support them as much as we can as we approach a very different festive season.*

*The Lighting Elves are hard at work and even Cyril has turned up to help. Once again, I am sure we will not be disappointed.*

## **195/21 CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS OF COMMITTEES MEETINGS**

### **Community Services Committee 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020**

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

### **Policy & Resources Committee 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020

### **Planning Consultative Committee 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020**

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the agenda items from the meeting held on 20th October 2020

## **196/21 NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

Councillor Richard Lewis reported that the NCALC AGM had taken place on and minutes were follows:-

#### **1. Welcome & housekeeping.**

Northants CALC Deputy CEO, Lesley Sambrook Smith opened the meeting and welcomed delegates. There were over 120 attendees in total,

#### **2. Election of Honorary Officers of the Association for the year 2020/2021.**

The following honorary offers were nominated and duly elected:

2.1 President Mr Jeffrey Greenwell

2.2 Vice Presidents Cllr Catherine Lomax

Mr Gordon Shorley

Mrs Gwen Radcliffe

2.3 Auditor Kate Brown Accountants

3. To receive the recommendations of the Appointments Panel on persons to be appointed to the board of directors for 2020/21.

The Appointments Panel recommended the following for appointment at the AGM:

No. Name Qualifying Council

1. Peter Allen Towcester Town Council

2. Chris Horsman Little Stanion Parish Council

3. Lynn Lavender Litchborough Parish Council

4. Richard Lewis Rushden Town Council

5. Geoff Paul Moulton Parish Council

6. Mike Scott Great Addington Parish Council

7. Lynne Taylor Daventry Town Council

8. Gill Wells West Haddon Parish Council

RESOLVED: That the eight candidates be appointed en bloc as directors for the year 2020/21.

4. Confirmation of the minutes of the 72<sup>nd</sup> AGM held on 5 October 2019.  
The minutes were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.

5. To receive the Annual Report for the year ending 31 March 2020 including the Annual Statement of Accounts and balance sheet for the year ending 31 March 2020. Northants CALC Chairman, Lynne Taylor, presented the Annual Report and Accounts And commended it to the AGM.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report & Accounts be received and noted.

6. To determine subscription levels for the year 2021/2022.

The board of directors recommends that the per council element of the Northants CALC membership fee for the year starting 1 April 2021 and ending 31 March 2022 be increased by inflation (CPIH July 2020 – 1.1%) from £161.55 to £163.33 and that the per elector element of the Northants CALC membership fee be increased by inflation (CPIH July 2020 – 1.1%) from 24.24 pence to 24.51 pence.

Larger councils (10,000 – 30,000 electorate) are charged a fixed fee for membership of Northants CALC.

### **7. Keynote Address - Community Connectors & Health & Wellbeing**

Mary-Jane Brown, Community Connector at Moulton Parish Council gave an inspirational Presentation on her role and on social prescribing. The role of Community Connector was created in 2016 and it is a collaboration between Moulton Parish Council and Moulton GP Surgery. It provides services to residents of Moulton and surrounding villages using the brand-new Moulton Community Centre as a hub.

The presentation generated a lot of questions, with subjects ranging from how the groups and Classes are organised to the qualification required to be a Community Connector or SPLW, and whether or not there is much cross-district and cross county border co-ordination.

### **8. Keynote Address – The Future of Public Health in Northamptonshire**

Lucy Wightman, Director of Public Health for Northamptonshire County Council gave a Presentation describing how public health will be delivered in north and west Northamptonshire when the unitary councils take over statutory responsibility for the service from April 2021.

The goal is to align resources between the unitary councils, the NHS and the community, including parish and town councils. LW explained how responding to the Coronavirus pandemic has and continues to be a major challenge, but a successful partnership approach has been adopted.

### **9. Presentation of Council of the Year**

Danny Moody read out the commendation for the Northamptonshire Council of the Year Award, which went to Wootton Parish Council for its resilience and fighting spirit in the face of the challenges presented by the Coronavirus pandemic.

DM said that it was tempting to make the award collectively to all parish and town councils and Parish meetings in Northamptonshire, which he said had done the sector proud over the past six months and had shown the value of local knowledge, local action, and community leadership. However, Wootton Parish Council was singled out due to its progressive and passionate clerk, Dedicated chairman, and active and engaged team of councillors.

## **197/21 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Members discussed a recommendation from the Policy and Resources Committee meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and following resolution was

### **RESOLVED**

That Rushden Town Council borrow from the Public Loans Board up to £2,500,000 for a maximum of three years to finance the building of the new sports/community facility at new site adjacent to A6/Bedford Road.

## **198/21 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

### **Community Services Committee 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the report of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020 be received and adopted.

### **Policy & Resources Committee 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the report of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020 be received and adopted

### **Planning Consultative Committee 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020 be received and adopted.

### **Planning Consultative Committee 11<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2020 be received and adopted.

### **Policy & Resources Committee 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the report of the meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 be received and adopted

### **Planning Consultative Committee 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup>

September 2020 be received and adopted.

Planning Consultative Committee 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**RESOLVED**

That the report of the meeting of the Planning Consultative Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020 be received and adopted.

Town Mayor